the needs of the ryots. In this connection reference was made to the Kotta measure in use in Nanjinad, the cubic contents of which, the member suggested, should be put down as 7paras instead of 8 paras 6½ edangalies as at present.

With a view to remedying the defects mentioned above the member suggested (i) the resuscitation of irrigation block boards ; (ii) the transfer of the sale of manures to co-operative societies; (iii) the institution of an enquiry into failure of crops etc. by the Agricultural Department; (iv) supply of agricultural implements, manure leaves etc. to ryots ; (v) reduction of the burden of taxation in accrodance with the varying productive capacity of lands and remission of taxes in deserving cases ; (vi) opening of more grazing grounds, and (vii) appointment of a committee to enquire into the Kotta measurement.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Arumukhaperumal Pillai Mathevan Pillai, you have covered many matters in regard to agriculture and kindred subjects.

Firstly, in regard to tank restoration or conservation I should say Government are now making it more and more difficult to have tank beds registered. Certainly they are not being given away or auctioned freely. On the other hand strict restrictions are being imposed against the conversion of tanks into cultivable lands.

You then go on to grazing grounds. There, you and I differ fundamentally. The cattle-breeding branch of the Agricultural Department is one of the most successful ventures in the State, and if there is no general improvement in cattle throughout the country, it is the fault of the people who will not be guided by the Agricultural Department but persist in going their own way. To begin with, grazing grounds are not a cattle paradise, as you imagine them to be, where cattle could be let loose and thrive and improve in breed. On the other hand grazing grounds are for the most part the source of infection and deterioration and dissemination of all that make for the degeneration of the cattle of the country. Until the people learn to care for their cattle as they care for their other valuable property, look after them, stall them well, breed them well, feed them well, and not simply let them loose on scrub-growths in the country side, the so-called grazing grounds where there is the intermingling of all sorts of degenerate cattle, diseased cattle, decrepit cattle, stunted cattle—until these grazing grounds are shut up, I do not think there is any prospect of Travancore cattle improving.

You go on to talk of manures and, apparently, you attach no value to artificial manures. The Agricultural Department is doing immense good in this direction and I can see this from other parts of Travancore where the people adopt the advice of the Agricultural Department and are following them with eagerness. But the people of Nanjinad, I know, are ultra-conservative and they stick to their old-world methods. As long as they continue like that they have got to stand the consequences.

You talk of co-operative societies being entrusted with the sale of manures. For the most part in Travancore these societies are co-operative *credit* societies. Government have not got the slightest objection to these societies acquiring as much artificial manures or natural manures as they like and selling them to the people. I do not think there is a single instance where the Government prevented a society from finding its own manure and selling it.

You talk of standardisation of measure, and then you proceed to say that the standard should be fixed as 7 paras to one kotta. This would mean that you do not want to accept the standard that has been fixed but want something else. That is another matter entirely.

32. Agricultural needs of the Muvattupuzha taluk.

THE REV. AVIRA JOSEPH KATHANAR (*Member, Muvattupuzha taluk*) said that agriculture was not making sufficient headway in the Muvattupuzha taluk. As means for the development of agriculture he made the following suggestions:—

(1) The swampy areas inside the reserve forests and the low-lying lands on either side of the Muvattupuzha—Devicolam road and the Kotamangalam—Pallivasal road and on the northern banks of the Periyar should be disafforested and assigned in small blocks ;

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(2) the canals and tanks necessary for irrigation should be resuscitated;

(3) locks and dams should be provided in the canals such as at Attayam and Aryakapilli in the Mulavur canal;

(4) an agricultural demonstration farm should be opened at Muvattupuzha;

(5) agricultural loans should be issued by the Agricultural Department as well;

(6) minor irrigation works should be entrusted to the Agricultural Department; and

(7) a veterinary hospital should be opened at Muvattupuzha.

With reference to minor irrigation works, particularly, the member stated that Government were practically neglecting the Muvattupuzha taluk, while they were spending large amounts in South Travancore. Government had indeed sanctioned Rs. 1400 for one *chira* in the taluk, but that was nothing when compared with the volume of work which remained to be done. A committee should be formed of representatives from the taluk and the necessary works should be executed in accordance with their proposals. Incidentally, the member made reference to the paucity of roads in his taluk.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Joseph Katanar, the subject you have named for your representation was stated in such vague and general terms that I could not anticipate what you were going to ask for and therefore cannot give replies here to every point of your representation. Most of them will be taken up and considered during the course of the year.

You spoke of more forest areas being thrown out of reserves and being made available for cultivation. This point will be considered in connection with the Neriamangalam Pallivasal road.

You complain that only very few roads were constructed last year. There are, I speak from memory, at least two new roads under construction now in Muvattupuzha taluk.

You refer to minor irrigation which you want to be transferred to the Director of Agriculture. Upon this point I would refer you to paragraph 12 of my address to the Assembly. The question of improving the work in that direction is already engaging the attention of the Government.

Then you refer to the difficulty in obtaining water for cultivation. At the request of the people of Muvattupuzha the Director of Agriculture recommended a cheap pump to pump up water from the wells. This contrivance will be taken round and shown to the people of the place.

33. Development of agriculture.

MR. P. PHILIPOSE (*Member, Municipal Council, Haripad*) said that the *virippu* fields in Central Travancore had two or three crops every year. The natural fertility of the soil was thus being exhausted. To make up for this, artificial manures had to be applied. But the manures commonly available in the market such as ammonium sulphate were costly and at the same time not of much use. Care had therefore to be taken to check the export of punnac, fish manure etc., from the State. The export of these kinds of manure had in fact to be prohibited entirely.

Equally important was the conservation of irrigation tanks and channels. Many of the old tanks and channels had been encroached upon by land-holders. Such encroachments had to be prohibited and the Agricultural Department had to be made responsible for providing more channels and tanks. A competent irrigation engineer could very well be attached to the department. One or two specific instances were given by the member of the hardships caused to the ryots of Karthikapally for want of a proper system of irrigation in the taluk. The crops in the *Mundakan* fields from Kirikad to Thottapally, to the east of the Kayancolam backwaters, had been failing regularly for the last four or five years owing to brine water finding its way into the fields. This could be easily averted by providing a bund or a lock in the

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